

Applicants' priority date of September 26, 2000. Applicants submit that priority document 2000-292537 supports the pending claims as shown below:

Present Claim	Support in Priority Document
1	Claim 1
2	Claim 2
3	Claim 3
6	Claim 3
17	Claim 6
18	Claim 7
19	Claim 8
20	Page 15, lines 1-4

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §102 rejection of claims 1-4, 6, and 17-20 based on Hatakeyama.

Claims 5 and 7-16 are objected to as allegedly being dependent on a rejected base claim.

Applicants have submitted a sworn translation of their priority document JP 2000-292537 to remove Hatakeyama as prior art and overcome the rejection of claims 1-4, 6 and 17-20. Therefore, claims 5 and 7-16 are no longer dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection and allow claims 5 and 7-16.

The Examiner has taken "official notice" that the use of surfactants is well known in the art. In the previous Action dated October 3, 2003, the Examiner took "official notice" that using

silicon or fluorine containing surfactants is well known in the art of photoresist compositions. In response, Applicants traversed the Examiner's assertion of official notice. When Applicants adequately traverse an assertion of official notice, the Examiner must provide documentary evidence in the next Office Action if the rejection is to be maintained. See MPEP 2144.03(C) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(c)(2). Therefore, Applicants submit that the burden is on the Examiner to cite documentary evidence to support maintaining the "official notice."

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

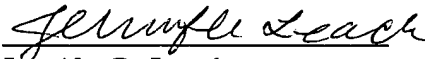
Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

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Date: June 24, 2004